
T H E

C R I S I S.

N U M B E R L I. *To be continued Weekly,*
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, January 6, 1776, [Price Two-pence Halfpenny.

It is an Act of PUBLIC JUSTICE not only to RESTRAIN, but
to DESTROY TYRANTS.



IOCLESIAN, the Emperor and Tyrant of Rome, was so full of Vanity, Folly, and Wickedness, that he would be worshiped like a GOD; and have his Subjects kiss his Feet. He was an Enemy to public Freedom, and hated the Christians to such a Degree, that he began the most cruel Persecution against them, that ever polluted the Earth with Blood; however, their Numbers increasing daily, he was at last obliged to abdicate the Throne, and seek Shelter in a foreign Land, and died of Despair and Rage, because he saw Freedom and Religion triumph over Idolatry and Oppression. Had not this bloody Monster been RESTRAINED and drove from the Empire, Rome had been enslaved and Christianity trampled under Foot: And unless the present BRITISH TYRANT is resisted and restrained, in his attempts to destroy the Religion, Liberties, and Property of the *Americans*, the Constitution of this Kingdom in Church and State must be overturned, and the Nation enslaved.

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DOMITIAN the last of the twelve Cæsars, (what will not Tyrants do) poisoned his **BROTHER** to be made Emperor: at first he governed well, but soon became both cruel and impious, and put to death many of the first and best Men in Rome, he began the second **Persecution** against the Christians, debauched his own Niece, delighted in Sodomy, took the Name of God and Lord, and would have destroyed all the human race, but he was at length murdered by the Hands of one **BRAVE** and **FREE** Roman: May every Tyrant meet **HIS FATE**. This merciful Emperor used to divert himself in Catching of Flies, and Piercing them with a Bodkin. The present Sovereign of England is often not much more usefully employed in examining little Pinchy's Gew-gaws, Baubles, and Trinkets, and many Times more cruelly with his Ministers in forming Plans for the universal Destruction of Mankind.

NERO succeeded Claudius in the Empire of Rome: at the beginning of his Reign, like most other **TYRANTS**, he made fair Promises, and not to lose any Occasion of evidencing his Liberality and Clemency, he eased the People either by taking away, or diminishing the Taxes and Impositions, and by great Liberality to the Poor. When the Sentence of a Person condemned to death was presented to him to be signed, "*I wish,*" said he, "*that I could not write.*" At another Time when the Senate made him a public acknowledgment of his just Administration, he answered with great Modesty, "*Pray let me deserve it first.*" In short, during the first five Years of his Reign, he made many excellent Speeches, and did Honour to the Seat of Royalty. But from that Time forwards his Life was spent in the most extravagant Enormities, horrid Crimes, and monstrous Abominations, that ever entered the depraved Imagination of Man. He caused his Mother to be murdered, his Wife *Octavia* to be put to death, and his Wife *Poppea* he killed with a Spurn of his Foot; the same Cruelties he exercised against his Relations, Friends, and the best Men in *Rome*; he wished all Mankind had but one Head, that he might have the Pleasure of Cutting it off. To have the Glory of Rebuilding *Rome*, and having it called by his Name, he set that famous City on Fire, and to Insult over it the more, got on a high Tower, and thence taking a View of the Flames, in a Comedian's Habit, **SUNG** a **SONG** of the Burning of *Troy* to his Harp. At length he justly became the common Detestation of Mankind, as the most execrable Monster that ever disgraced human Nature: His Armies in *Gaul* declared against him, and *Galla* revolted in Spain,

Spain, which News threw him into such Despair, that he designed to have poisoned himself, or to have demanded the PARDON of the PEOPLE; but as he was pursued on every side, and found he must be justly sacrificed to the Resentment of the Public, he was forced to turn his own Executioner, nor could he have found a more infamous Hangman. Such is generally the Fate of all Tyrants, the common Destroyers of Mankind.

The History of this Country, like that of *Rome*, will furnish us with many Instances of such Monsters, seated on the Throne of Royalty. It is true his present Majesty, was always very *dutiful*, and too much of a BABY and SUCKLING to kill his Mother, but he drove into Banishment, and was instrumental in the death of a BROTHER, because he had given Offence to his *Mamma's* favourite, and since that, he has driven from *St. James's*, the common Sink of Corruption; two other Brothers, because they are virtuous and have each a Wife, and also his best Friends, with many of the greatest Men in this Kingdom. His Majesty too, by means of his Instruments of Destruction, has set one Part of the Empire on FIRE, and he no sooner heard of the BURNING of *Charles-Town* in AMERICA, and the Slaughter of more than THREE THOUSAND of his Subjects, but he set off in HIGH SPIRITS with two venal Lords in waiting, for *Foot's Theatre*, to whom he was observed to be Whispering and Laughing during the Performance, thereby shewing to a TAME DASTARDLY English Audience, the Satisfaction he felt on Receiving the horrid News of that CONFLAGRATION and MASSACRE.

From the Instances already mentioned of Roman Tyrants, the necessity of opposing and resisting such Monsters, must be apparent to every Man; and no wise Nation in the World, ever yet trusted to the sole Management, mere Mercy, and absolute Discretion, of its Magistrates, when it could help doing it; and no Kings ever had absolute Power over any Nation, but they turned the same to its Ruin, and their own vile Gratification. As long as Men are SUFFERED to govern by their Passions, their Passions will always increase with their Power; and therefore, whenever the People cross the Passions of any Man who governs them, he will turn all the Power they put into his Hands against them, and will destroy them unless timely resisted and restrained. This is evident in a Thousand Instances, but
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in none more fatal than in that of *America*, where THREE MILLIONS of People are to be sacrificed to the private Lust and cursed Ambition of ONE TYRANT.

A Nation has but two Sorts of usurpation to fear; one from their Neighbours, and another from their own Magistrates; and the *Americans* rightly and sensibly Judged; a domestic one was far the most dangerous of the two, proceeding insensibly by Degrees, till those Chains which had been secretly forging for them, were fast rivited; they therefore early and nobly resisted, and happily frustrated every Scheme that had been formed, and every Snare laid for their Destruction, and with a Firmness and bravery, that will immortalize their Names, preserved those Rights, which a Tyrannic King meant traitorously to have seized.

The present Sovereign not convinced by fatal Experience, the continual defeat of his Armies, and the Loss of more than One Half of his Empire, but he is still determined to pursue his diabolical Plans of devastation and Massacre, to gratify his rapacious and unrelenting Fury; with this View TWENTY THOUSAND Russians are to be added to the present Number of English Mercenaries, that we may be the better enabled to Butcher with the greater cruelty the Virtuous, and as yet Free *Americans*, still exulting in the Luxury, of DYING, where we forbid them, longer to live FREEMEN, and with their last Breath, indignantly devoting us, the venal Sons of Britain, to a willing Thralldom and Perdition.

An unrestrained Power in ONE Man, or in a FEW, over ALL, is such an extravagant Deviation from Reason and Nature, that neither *Briareus* with his many Hands, nor the *Hydra*, with its numerous Heads, nor the *Centaur* half Man and half Beast, were things more unshapen monstrous and frightful; nor would these Fictions appear more fabulous and Improbable, than such Power would be to a FREE PEOPLE, who never heard of it before.

What could seem to common Sense a wilder *Chimera*, than that ONE Man, not created with Features and Endowments different from other Men, should have a lasting RIGHT from his Blood, his Pride, or his Madness, to domineer over ALL Men, and to rule, kill, starve, famish, banish, and imprison as many as he pleased,
which

(which the present King of England, and all other Tyrants would do if not restrained and resisted.)

Only the Checks put upon Kings make Nations FREE, and the want of such Checks make them Slaves. Thus by a criminal Patience unworthy of Englishmen; and for want of a strenuous Opposition **HERE**, to the Measures of a foolish, weak, wanton, wicked, insolent Tyrant and his Ministers, thousands of our American Fellow Subjects have been butchered, and the Nation nearly enslaved.

The Americans have certainly been guilty of the horrid Crime of distinguishing between PROTECTION, and OPPRESSION, between FREEDOM and SLAVERY, and they have already convinced the World, how truly sensible they are of the DIFFERENCE, and how much they prefer the former to the latter; and to the utter Confusion, eternal Disgrace, and lasting Infamy of the King and Ministry; they have hitherto gloriously triumphed over Fraud and Violence, and all the Instruments of Hell and Despotism; like the true Descendants of Freemen and Britons, they are determined to check, and if possible destroy the Lawless Power of a Tyrant, who has broken his Coronation Oath, and all the Bonds of human Society, and is at this Time, by the Aid of his Ministers and the infernal Spirits of Darkness, endeavouring to enslave, or extirpate from the Face of the *Earth* more than **THREE MILLIONS** of People; but they, fighting in the Cause of Truth and Freedom, Justice and their Country, and preferring *DEATH to SLAVERY*, will be crowned with Victory and never fading Laurels, whilst the Vengeance of Heaven, will pursue and destroy the *Enemies* to universal Liberty, and the natural Rights of Mankind; and *America* shall rise like the *Phoenix* out of her *Asbes*, and erect an **INDEPENDENT EMPIRE**, of *HER OWN*, the Terror and Admiration of the World.

In this Manner did our Forefathers check the enormous Power of the Crown, and resist the Tyranny of their Kings, and left to their Children, (the present degenerate race of Englishmen) purchased with their BLOOD, the glorious Inheritance of LIBERTY and FREEDOM.

Thus did the *Romans* (and all Free States) restrain Power, and those who had it; and when any Power was grown quite ungovernable, they abolished it. Thus they expelled *Tarquin*, and the kingly Government,

vernment, having first suffered much by oppression and injustice; and they prospered as eminently without it. That Government too was extremely limited: the first *Roman* Kings were little more than Generals for Life: they had no *NEGATIVE* Vote in the Senate (as our Kings have). and could neither make War nor Peace; and even in the Execution of Justice, an Appeal lay from them to the *PEOPLE*. By confining the Power of the Crown within Proper Bounds, [their Kings gained Power without Bounds in the *AFFECTIONS* of the People. But the insolent *Tarquin* broke through all Bounds, and acted so openly against Law and the People of *Rome* that they had no Remedy left but to *EXPELL* him and his Race, which they did with glorious success.

What does that Tyrant deserve who can deliberately order the Burning of Towns, and the Ruin of Thousands. Who can read the horrid Recital of the Destruction of Charles-Town, and Falmouth in America, without feeling his Mind agitated by a Mixture of pity, horror, shame, indignation, and resentment? To burn a Town and ruin its Inhabitants in COLD BLOOD, surpasses every Idea of savage Barbarity and Brutality! If I, who am an Englishman (unconnected with *America*, except by the ties which ought to bind Fellow Subjects) not even known to an American, am thus agitated by the Contemplation of such an infernal Scene, what effects must it have produced in the Breasts of those who saw their Habitations smoking in RUINS! Must they not have been raised to a pitch of Fury; to a Madness not to be equalled in the Regions of Bedlam? And perhaps ere now, the same inhuman, cowardly Revenge of a despicable Tyrant and his Ministers has involved every Town on the Coast of America in one COMMON RUIN? The Americans will think, it was the Act of the English NATION,----but how unjust their Supposition! The English Nation recoil with horror from the view, which even to their imagination is dreadful! They execrate the Tyrant and his Ministers who commanded the shocking Devastation, and easily foresee that unless he is soon restrained, and brought within the bounds of Law, in the DESTRUCTION of AMERICA must be involved THEIR OWN.